

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 21, 2005 as a national phase filing under 35 U.S.C. §371 based on International Application No. PCT/FI2003/000575. The national phase filing was accompanied by a Preliminary Amendment wherein claims 1-35 from the international application were cancelled without prejudice and new claims 36-72 were presented. In an Amendment dated October 23, 2009, claims 36-38 and 52-72 were canceled without prejudice, and claims 73 and 74 were added. Prior to the present amendment, claims 39-51, 73 and 74 were pending, including independent claims 39, 40, 73 and 74.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 39-51, 73 and 74 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,703,689 (hereinafter “Wada”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,052,939 (hereinafter “Huang”).

Applicant respectfully traverses on the ground that Huang fails to remedy the deficiencies of Wada discussed by Applicant in the Amendment dated October 23, 2009. Notwithstanding this traversal, Applicant has chosen to amend the claims, specification and drawings in view of a telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney on June 23, 2010. The present claim amendments and cancellations are being made without prejudice solely in order to facilitate prosecution of the present application, rather than for reasons related to patentability over the prior art. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue claims similar to previously-presented claims 39, 40, 73 and 74 in one or more continuing applications.

Claims 40 and 73 have been canceled without prejudice solely in order to expedite allowance of the subject matter recited in claims 39 and 74. Applicant is not conceding that these claims are unpatentable over the cited references, and Applicant again reserves the right to pursue claims similar to claims 40 and 73 in one or more continuing applications.

Claims 39 and 74 have been amended without prejudice so as to recite that the further conductive element is electrically isolated from the conductive via within which the further conductive element is contained. Support for this amendment may be found in the specification at, for example, page 9, lines 26-28. Applicant has also amended FIG. 15 so as to show the newly-added claim limitations in accordance with 37 CFR 1.83(a), and Applicant has made minor amendments to page 9 of the specification so as to conform to the drawings. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the combination of Wada and Huang fails to teach or suggest at least the newly-added limitations of claims 39 and 74, and Applicant thus asserts that independent claims 39 and 74 are patentable over Wada and Huang. Applicant also asserts that dependent claims 41-51 are patentable over Wada not only for the reasons given above with respect to independent claim 39 from which they directly or indirectly depend, but also because one or more of said dependent claims recites separately patentable subject matter.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any points raised in this response. Applicant asserts that claims 39, 41-51 and 74 of the present application are in condition for allowance, and request favorable reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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